

Keeping Connected - The CPCScotland Weekly Bulletin

Issue 68 - Tuesday 31st August 2021

Issued to support Child Protection Committees and partners with up to date information on child protection issues.

Welcome to Issue 68 of Keeping Connected.

This week we have a short edition of Keeping Connected to share with you as we eagerly await publication of the National Guidance for Child Protection in Scotland 2021 and the National Guidance for Child Protection Committees Undertaking Learning Reviews. We expect publication on Thursday of this week (2nd September) and we will include the links for both documents and the supporting materials in next week's Keeping Connected.

Included this week are a number of interesting research and evaluation reports from Scotland and other parts of the UK and an animated resource from adult protection colleagues in Norfolk called 'Tricky Friends' which I think is worth a watch for those working to safeguard young people from exploitation in the community.

Remember, if you have anything from your area you think would be of interest to others across Scotland please get in touch with Susan Mitchell at cpcscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk to discuss information we could include in Keeping Connected.

Keep safe.

Alan Small CPCScotland Chair

Guidance, Resources and Information

1 Framework for Schools to Support Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing

The Scottish Government has published a Whole School Approach Framework for Schools to Support Children and Young People's Mental Health and Wellbeing, produced by the Mental Health in Schools Working Group, on behalf of Scottish Ministers, to support local authorities and schools embed support for children and young people's mental health and wellbeing across all aspects of the school environment:

<https://www.gov.scot/publications/whole-school-approach-mental-health-wellbeing/>

2 Progress review of services for children and young people in need of care and protection in Orkney

The Care Inspectorate have published a progress review of services for children and young people in need of care and protection in Orkney. The key finding of the review found that services are now improving. This follows an earlier joint inspection carried out between August and October 2019, which identified significant weaknesses in the way services were led and delivered.

[Progress review CYP Orkney Aug 2021.pdf \(careinspectorate.com\)](#)

3 Adult Protection Monthly Newsletter

The August edition of the National Adult Protection Co-ordinator Monthly Newsletter is now available. To receive this publication please subscribe at the link below.

<https://khub.us18.list-manage.com/subscribe?u=cceb39733f2e9a839ef0e835f&id=603a96b0c2>

This edition includes 'Tricky Friends', a short animation developed by Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board to help people to understand what good friendships are, when they might be harmful, and what they can do.

[Tricky Friends animation | Norfolk Safeguarding Adults Board](#)

Training, Learning Events and Resources

4 Transitional safeguarding learning event: 'bridging the gap'

This learning event, hosted by the Local Government Association, is on Wednesday 8 September 2021, 2.00pm – 4.00pm. The learning event will enable participants to improve their knowledge of Transitional Safeguarding; influence and change safeguarding practice with young people; and consider how to develop a Transitional Safeguarding approach locally.

[Local Government Association - Bridging the gap](#)

5 The UNCRC in Scotland:- What does it mean for families? - Webinar

This free webinar is hosted by Parenting Across Scotland and takes place on Thursday 16th September from 10:30-12:30.

'With one in four children in Scotland currently living in poverty, and tens of thousands living in inadequate housing it is crucial that families should be *'afforded the necessary protection and assistance' to bring up their children 'in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love and understanding'*. This webinar will explore how the UNCRC can be used to support families.

[The UNCRC in Scotland – what does it mean for families? Tickets, Thu 16 Sep 2021 at 10:30 | Eventbrite](#)

6 Families Affected by Imprisonment training

Families Outside have recently launched three new accredited training modules. The training is aimed at professionals who may come into contact with families affected by imprisonment, with attendance at the training counting towards continuous professional development.

- Understanding the issues for Families Affected by imprisonment
- Supporting children and young people who have a family member in prison
- Prison and prison visiting

Please note there is a cost to attend these training modules

[Training for Professionals who Deal with Families Affected by Imprisonment \(familiesoutside.org.uk\)](#)

7 Reviewing Challenges & Dispelling Myths for Children in Care with SEND

This virtual masterclass is offered by the Association of Child Protection Professionals (AoCPP) and will review the challenges faced with the aim of dispelling myths perceived by children in care, professionals, parents and carers. The Masterclass takes place on Thursday 7th October from 1:30-4:30pm.

Please note there is a cost to attend this Masterclass.

[The AoCPP Masterclasses: 'Reviewing Challenges & Dispelling Myths for Children in Care with SEND' | Association of Child Protection Professi \(rit.org.uk\)](#)

8 Policing County Lines - Impact of COVID-19 - New date : Tuesday 9 November 10.00am - 1.00pm

This virtual masterclass is offered by the Association of Child Protection Professionals (AoCPP) and will introduce findings from a UKRI-funded research project by the University of Nottingham's Rights Lab – exploring the effect of COVID-19 on Child Criminal Exploitation and County Lines.

[The AoCPP Masterclasses: 'Policing County Lines - Impact of Covid-19' 9 November | Association of Child Protection Professi \(childprotectionprofessionals.org.uk\)](#)

Research and Evidence Based Reports

9 COVID Learning Reports: Children's Wellbeing

The University of Strathclyde has reported on the findings of the eight-week, real-time, daily COVID 4P Log (Protection, Provision, Participation, Prevention) for Children's Wellbeing smartphone app and the Life Under Coronavirus survey, which received over 3,330 responses from 22 countries across five continents, undertaken by Inspiring Children's Futures. Further reports are to follow.

[Publications — Inspiring Children's Futures at the University of Strathclyde \(inspiringchildrensfutures.org\)](https://inspiringchildrensfutures.org)

10 How Child-Focused are Child Protection Conferences?

This article presents findings from a qualitative study of CPCs in two areas in central England which explored the extent to which conferences are 'child-focused' events. Children's participation in CPCs was found to be low, and child-focused decision-making and planning were rarely achieved. The findings emphasise the importance of pre-conference work with children and families, and the central role of the conference chair.

[How Child-Focused are Child Protection Conferences? - Richardson Foster - - Child Abuse Review - Wiley Online Library](#)

11 Domestic Homicides and Suspected Victim Suicides During the Covid-19 Pandemic 2020-2021 (England and Wales)

A new police report has been released on domestic homicides since the Covid-19 pandemic in England and Wales. The report finds that whilst domestic homicides and suspected victim suicides with a known history of domestic abuse did not substantially increase since the pandemic began, it remains an 'entrenched and enduring problem' with 215 deaths recorded by the project between 23 March 2020 and 31 March 2021. The report analyses victim and suspect characteristics, circumstances of the death and highlights the different contexts and dynamics of homicide cases, distinguishing between intimate partner homicide, adult family homicide, child death and victim suicide. It shows domestic homicide to remain a highly gendered crime, with 73% female victims and 80% male suspects. The project also, for the first time ever, systematically collected suspected suicides of victims of domestic abuse.

[02d412c416154010b5cebaf8f8965030.pdf \(prgloo.com\)](https://prgloo.com/02d412c416154010b5cebaf8f8965030.pdf)

12 Care experience and employment

This short summary paper from IRISS provides an overview of evidence relating to how care experience affects education and employment.

[Care experience and employment | Iriss](#)

13 Reaching the tipping point: Children and young people's mental health

The NHS Confederation, the membership organisation that brings together, supports and speaks for the whole healthcare system in England, Wales and Northern Ireland, has published 'Reaching the tipping point', a new report on children and young people's mental health which considers the impact the COVID-19 public health emergency has had on children's mental health and the services that support them, and new ways of working:

[Reaching the tipping point | NHS Confederation](#)

14 Family Nurse Partnership Evaluation Report

The Scottish Government has published the Family Nurse Partnership Insights (COVID-19) Evaluation Report, which was commissioned to explore the experiences of the family nurses and clients in Scotland during the COVID-19 pandemic. The programme is designed to support young first-time mothers from early pregnancy up until the child's second birthday. The programme has 3 main aims, to improve maternal health, to improve child development and to improve the economic self-sufficiency of the family.

[Family Nurse Partnership Insights \(COVID-19\) Evaluation Report - gov.scot \(www.gov.scot\)](#)

News and Opinion

15 In the media

- In an investigation by the Sunday Herald, former pupils of private boarding schools in Scotland and England have described suffering 'pupil-on-pupil' physical and sexual abuse, with neither schools or parents taking responsibility to prevent this – the former pupils are calling for an overhaul of the boarding school system:
[NEIL MACKAY'S BIG READ: Boarding school survivors reveal their horrific stories of childhood abuse in 'MeToo' moment | HeraldScotland](#)
- The Daily Record has reported on the UK Government's response to a letter signed by over 100 organisations and politicians, calling on the government to end the so-called young parent penalty in Universal Credit, which pays those aged under 25 less and risks pushing families into poverty.
[Campaigners slam Tory Government defence of lower Universal Credit for younger parents - Daily Record](#)
- The BBC has reported on the National Youth Agency's concerns that a lack of funding for rural youth work in England increases the risk of children and young people being exploited by county lines gangs, which use vulnerable children to help them bring illegal drugs into areas across the UK.

[Service cuts may expose rural youth to county lines - BBC News](#)

- Scotland on Sunday has reported on the potential impact on families in Scotland if the UK Government continues with its plans to cut the temporary COVID-19 Universal Credit increase of £20 per week, and the Scottish Government does not increase the monthly Scottish Child Payment from £10 to £20 per week, sharing the stories of four single mothers who had to apply for emergency support from Save the Children Scotland in the last year.
[The cruel reality of life on Universal Credit, and the campaign to stop it being cut | The Scotsman](#)

16 As the Children's code comes in – what's next? A blog from the UK Information Commissioner's Office

The UK Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) has published a blog post by Stephen Bonner, its Executive Director of Regulatory Futures and Innovation, on what's next as the Age Appropriate Design Code, known as the Children's code, comes into force on 2 September 2021 – the code aims to create a better internet for children by ensuring online services likely to be accessed by children, respect a child's rights and freedoms when using their personal data:
[Blog: As the Children's code comes in – what's next? | ICO](#)

Please let us know what you think about the bulletin and provide information for inclusion in future editions. Contact Alan Small or Susan Mitchell at cpcscotland-liaison@strath.ac.uk.

Please note that the information included in this bulletin is provided in good faith. Inclusion does not indicate CPCScotland endorsement of the content of the linked documents or websites.